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Mr. Nicholas Rostow Legal Advisor National Security Council The White House Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Rostow:

This is in response to the 22 July 1988 memorandum forwarded by Mr. Paul Schott Stevens, Executive Secretary of the National Security Council asking that the Executive Branch not respond to requests from the General Accounting Office (GAO) in their investigation of General Manuel Noriega.

The GAO contacted the Central Intelligence Agency on 24 May 1988 requesting information on General Noriega's alleged drug activities. It is not the Agency's policy to respond to GAO requests for information that properly belongs in the purview of the intelligence oversight committees. The Office of Congressional Affairs declined this request on 13 June 1988. For your information, I have enclosed the pertinent correspondence.

Sincerely,

/5/

for John L. Helgerson Director of Congressional Affairs

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